CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of handling personally identifiable information, said method comprising:

defining a limited number of privacy-related actions regarding said personally identifiable information;

constructing a rule for each circumstance in which one of said privacy-related actions may be taken or must be taken;

allowing for the input of dynamic contextual information to precisely specify the condition for evaluation of said rule;

creating a programming object containing at least one of said rules;

associating said programming object with said personally identifiable information;

processing a request; and

providing an output.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said output is selected from the group consisting of

authorizing said privacy-related action,

authorizing said privacy-related action, plus specifying one or more tasks,

and denying said request but also suggesting what must be done to have said request approved.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said output includes the specification of at least one additional action that must be taken.

4. A system for handling personally identifiable information,

said system comprising:

means for defining a limited number of privacy-related actions

regarding said personally identifiable information;

means for constructing a rule for each circumstance in which one

of said privacy-related actions may be taken or must be taken;

means for allowing for the input of dynamic contextual

information to precisely specify the condition for evaluation of

said rule;

means for creating a programming object containing at least one

of said rules;

means for associating said programming object with said

personally identifiable information;

means for processing a request; and

means for providing an output.

5. The system of Claim 4, wherein said output is selected from

the group consisting of

authorizing said privacy-related action,

authorizing said privacy-related action, plus specifying one or

more tasks,

and denying said request but also suggesting what must be done to

have said request approved.

6. The system of Claim 4, wherein said output includes the

specification of at least one additional action that must be

taken.

7. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable

instructions for handling personally identifiable information,

said computer-executable instructions comprising:

means for defining a limited number of privacy-related actions
regarding said personally identifiable information;

means for constructing a rule for each circumstance in which one
of said privacy-related actions may be taken or must be taken;

means for allowing for the input of dynamic contextual
information to precisely specify the condition for evaluation of
said rule;

means for creating a programming object containing at least one
of said rules;

means for associating said programming object with said
personally identifiable information;

means for processing a request; and

means for providing an output.

8. The computer-usable medium of Claim 7, wherein said output is
selected from the group consisting of

authorizing said privacy-related action,

authorizing said privacy-related action, plus specifying one or
more tasks,

and denying said request but also suggesting what must be done to
have said request approved.

9. The computer-usable medium of Claim 7, wherein said output
includes the specification of at least one additional action that
must be taken.